

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

~~SECRET~~
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Poland

SUBJECT Sailors' Imports

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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1. Up to 1 April 1948, every sailor in the Polish Merchant Fleet had the right to purchase goods abroad out of his pay received in American dollars. The 2,500 sailors in the Fleet receive an average of approximately 100 American dollars each per month, and the total amount involved is some 3,000,000 dollars a year.

Comment: The 100 dollars a month seems to be the amount received in tips and to be in addition to the regular pay in zloty. The estimate seems excessively high.)

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2. To save these dollars for the State, the Minister of Industry and Trade has now issued a regulation banning "Sailors' Imports" and making it compulsory for sailors to exchange their dollars in Poland for zloty. To compensate them for their loss of profit, a special rate of exchange has been established for them at 1,200 zloty for one American dollar.

3. Sailors must exchange their dollars through the following enterprises:

- a. Baltona - State Shipping
- b. Dal - Deep Sea Fishing Organization
- c. Pch - State Trade Central Office
- d. Spolem - Cooperative Organization
- e. Unia - Union of Importers and Exporters

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4. The above regulations are official and have appeared in the Polish press.

Comment: The regulation and the rate of exchange means that a sailor averaging 100 American dollars a month actually gets 120,000 zloty per month. In contrast, the average salary of a General Manager of the Central Administration of an Industry is only about 20,000 zloty per month. One purpose of the measure seems to be to reduce the temptation to sailors to desert or to enter into contacts with Poles and foreigners abroad.)

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